IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE (MBHB Case No. 06-275)

In re Application of: Crabtree et al.)
) Examiner: Sikarl A. Witherspoon
Serial No.: 10/577,629) Group Art Unit: 1621
Filed: February 7,2007)
) Confirmation No.: 9819
Title: Process For The Production Of Lactams)

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 20, 2007

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed December 20, 2007, Applicants respectfully request the Patent Office to reconsider the above-identified patent application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

The Listing of Claims begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.